



Northern York County School District

Curriculum Overview

Course: Academic English I	
Grade Level: 9	
Approval Date:	Length of Time: 180 Days
Course Description: <p>It focuses on enhancing language arts skills, particularly in composition and grammar, enabling students to communicate clearly across all four modes of writing. Literature studies foster discussion, critical thinking, and research-based writing. Students will engage in presentations and speeches based on literary analysis. This course prepares students for post-secondary success, and Keystone Exam preparation is integrated throughout the year to ensure readiness.</p>	
Course Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop communication techniques to communicate messages clearly.• Identify main ideas and literary elements by distinguishing supporting text evidence accordingly.• Identify literary eras, genres and features to form literal and thematic understanding.• Describe and identify an explicit argument or position in a text using specific features and techniques for accuracy.• Classify an idea or concept into categories describing clear supporting reasons or evidence with an awareness of language and style for varied purposes and audiences with an awareness of language and style.	
Related Standards: <p>CC.1.2.9-10.L: Read and comprehend literary non-fiction and informational text on grade level, reading independently and proficiently.</p> <p>CC.1.3.9-10.B: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly, as well as inferences and conclusions based on an author's explicit assumptions and beliefs about a subject.</p> <p>CC.1.3.9-10.D: Determine the point of view of the text and analyze the impact the point of view has on the meaning of the text.</p> <p>CC.1.4.9-10.B: Write with a sharp, distinct focus identifying topic, task, and audience.</p> <p>CC.1.4.9-10.D: Organize ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions; use appropriate and varied transitions to link the major sections of the text; include formatting when useful to aiding comprehension; provide a concluding statement or section.</p> <p>CC.1.4.9-10.F: Demonstrate a grade-appropriate command of the conventions of standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.</p> <p>CC.1.4.9-10.X: Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.</p> <p>CC.1.5.9-10.A: Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions on grade-level topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.</p>	

Units:

- Intro To Writing and Literary Analysis
- Classic Novel
- Greek Mythology
- Drama
- Literature Circle (Independent Novel/Group Discussion)
- Research Writing
- Public Speaking

Concepts:

- **Written communication:** the ability to clearly express ideas, information, and emotions through writing for a variety of audiences and purposes. In 9th grade, students build this skill by learning to organize their thoughts, use proper grammar and structure, and adapt their writing to fit different writing tasks.
- **Verbal communication:** the ability to clearly express thoughts, ideas, and emotions through spoken language. In 9th grade, students strengthen this skill by practicing active listening, speaking with clarity and purpose, and adapting their tone and language to suit different audiences and situations.
- **Critical Reading and Thinking:** involves analyzing and evaluating texts to understand deeper meanings, make connections, and form reasoned judgments. In 9th grade, students develop these skills by questioning ideas, identifying evidence, and drawing inferences to become more thoughtful and engaged readers.
- **Synthesizing Information:** the ability to combine ideas from multiple sources to form a clear, original understanding or argument. In 9th grade, students practice this skill by comparing/contrasting texts, identifying key themes or ideas, and integrating evidence to support their own conclusions.
- **Evaluating Information:** the ability to assess the credibility, relevance, and accuracy of sources and ideas. In 9th grade, students strengthen this skill by analyzing the reliability of texts and making informed judgments based on evidence.
- **Planning and Organization:** involves managing time and structuring tasks to complete work effectively and efficiently. In

Competencies:

- Students will write focused, well-organized pieces with supporting evidence, using appropriate style and correct grammar, while revising for clarity and coherence.
- Students will demonstrate active listening and communication skills by understanding and responding thoughtfully, while clearly expressing their ideas using appropriate tone and language for effective communication.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze and evaluate text by finding text evidence in a variety of texts and drawing inferences to develop thoughtful interpretations and reasoned judgments.
- Students will be able to evaluate credible sources by verifying facts from opinions using multiple sources.
- Students will be able to synthesize information from multiple texts by identifying common themes or ideas and integrating relevant evidence to develop and support an original argument or interpretation.

<p>9th grade, students build this skill by breaking assignments into manageable steps to stay focused and productive.</p>	
<p>Learning Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct Instruction • Guided Practice • Independent Practice • Essay writing • Creative writing • Text analysis • Small group discussion • Whole group discussion (seminar) • Individual/Group presentations • Group collaboration projects 	<p>Performance Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests • Quizzes • Writing Assignments • Project Based Assessments • Class Discussions
<p>Other Assessment Measures:</p> <p>Literature Keystone Exam</p>	
<p>Textbook/Primary Resource:</p> <p><i>Adventures in Reading</i> – Athena Edition <i>Animal Farm</i> (Orwell)</p>	
<p>Supplemental Resource Materials:</p> <p>Online resources Teacher generated notes and presentations Teacher generated activities Multimedia resources Various text / novels for use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The Secret Life of Bees</i> (Monk-Kidd) ○ <i>Speak</i> (Halse-Anderson) ○ <i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i> (Alexie) ○ <i>Monster</i> (Dean-Myers) ○ <i>Milkweed</i> (Spinelli). 	